KyANG 'Snow Storm' assists on 2 fronts

C-130s drop supplies into war-torn Bosnia

By Capt. Phil Blahut
National Guard Bureau

Volunteers from the Kentucky Air National Guard and their new C-130H aircraft have joined a Total Force mission to provide food and medicine to residents of war-torn Sarajevo, Bosnia-Hercegovina and surrounding regions.

The day following President Bill Clinton's Feb. 25 authorization to resume the airdrop and landing of relief supplies, members of the 123rd Airlift Wing stepped forward to participate in a campaign that has received worldwide attention.

Two of the unit's "Snow Storm" aircraft already were involved in delivering material to Somalia as part of Operation Restore Hope. A third aircraft was launched from the 123rd's Louisville home base for Rhein Mein AB, Germany, to join the new mission.

The 57 Kentuckians created six aircrews and related ground support personnel teams. They joined six similar aircrews from the Air Force Reserve and its three aircraft. Together, and in cooperation with active Air Force units, the airlifters are involved in a mission that may last for several months.

"We integrated with active duty and reserve crews real well. The Total Force policy idea became real. We were accepted as one large C-130 team with a real humanitarian mission," said Senior Master Sgt. Dan Spradling, a 123rd AW loadmaster supervisor. Spradling was one of several Kentucky guardsmen who participated in the first airdrops of MREs to the starving people of Bosnia.

"The landings at Sarajevo are somewhat risky, but it's worth it for mankind. We off-load supplies with engines running. From the cockpit, we can see the bombed out shell of the city," said Capt. Ted Parero, a 123rd pilot. "In some ways, it's more of a challenge than others."

The 123rd's "Snow Storm" airlifters are equipped with the latest navigational and air defense systems, including the capability to emit chaff and flares to distract incoming missiles, just one of the threats posed to aviators who have been assisting relief efforts. Currently, only three Air Guard C-130 units have this capability. The C-130H also features larger and more fuel efficient engines, increasing range, according to Maj. Terry Butler, the current Air National Guard contingency support staff director.

If the missions continue, Air Guard officials anticipate that "Snow-Storm-equipped" C-130s and Guard members from Tennessee and West Virginia will rotate to Germany to continue the humanitarian campaign.
Debates have no room in chain-of-command

I recently received a message from Gen. Merrill A. "Tony" McPeak, the Air Force chief of staff. The subject -- "Our profession's Core Values."

General McPeak discusses a recent visit by our commander in chief, President Bill Clinton, to a military installation where the medical coverage struck a somewhat negative tone. This should cause all of us concern. Perhaps we need to remind ourselves about the core values that have made the military and this country strong. These core values include the principle of a chain-of-command that runs from the president right down to our newest airman.

Of course, as guardsmen we must not forget the state and our boss the governor. However, when we are federalized to go to war, the president is our commander and we must have confidence in his command. We simply must not permit today's debates about a new national military strategy, or the resources committed to the nation will not suffice to defend, or social issues, to divide us from the society we serve or to undercut the strength and integrity of the chain of command.

From discussions with some of our top leaders, I am confident that our nation's civilian leadership is very interested in our welfare and they respect our judgement. The president has made this quite clear himself, saying, "As long as I am your president, our men and women in uniform will continue to be the best trained, the best prepared, the best equipped fighting force in the world."

General McPeak says, "Being the world's most respected air and space force is more than a vision. It's a way of life...a commitment to our profession's core values."

Let's not forget that we are part of this country's Air Force and we must show solidarity in our respect for its commanders.

Armed Forces Day message from the Joint Chiefs of Staff

Today, May 15, America is celebrating its 44th observance of Armed Forces Day. We will honor American soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen who stand vigil, securing peace around the globe. This year's theme, "Proud...Professional...Prepared," truly exemplifies today's armed forces. However, change is the watchword as America works to preserve its position in the new world.

At home, our military and civilian communities are facing force reduction and base closures. Abroad, changes of historic proportions are occurring in every corner of the globe. These changes make it more important than ever that we continue to maintain a strong, powerful and proud force with worldwide capabilities.

America's armed forces are the world's finest -- championing a cause to ensure our beloved nation is safe and secure from the uncertainty of an ever-changing world. The Joint Chiefs of Staff and I join Americans everywhere on this Armed Forces Day, sending you and your families our appreciation for your dedication and many sacrifices.

Gen. Colin L. Powell, Chairman,
The Joint Chiefs of Staff
Whatever it takes, wherever it takes

By Tech Sgt. Charles Simpson
123rd Mission Support Flight

During the March UTA, members of the 123rd Security Police Flight cleaned and checked their M-16 rifles as part of a semi-annual weapons inventory. During normal status, the weapons are checked at the security police headquarters last month, because of recent base construction, the task was moved to the hangar floor.

The rifles must be kept in a state of constant readiness, in case an order comes to mobilize. The weapons must be identified, checked for mechanical integrity, cleaned and properly stored. Because of their vigilance, the troops in the blue berets will be armed and able to protect the airfields, bases and people placed in harm's way.

Chaplain’s Corner

Some lessons from childhood have same importance to ANG

By Maj. Thomas Curry
KyANG Protestant Chaplain

A popular book of several years ago was titled, All I Really Wanted to Know I Learned in Kindergarten. The book is a collection of essays about life, common sense things that mean a lot, but that we have forgotten.

When you think about it, some of the things listed would really be helpful for us to remember: “Share everything. Play fair. Don’t hit people. Put things back where you found them. Clean up your own mess. Say you’re sorry when you hurt somebody. Flush.”

These are only some of the items listed, but one quote in particular speaks to our unit: “When you go out into the world, watch out for traffic, hold hands and stick together.”

Of all the things that we learned as a child, I think this comment means the most. To stick together in the Kentucky Air National Guard means to bond ourselves to our mission, along with our common faith in God and to sustain our relationships and our task.

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25th homecoming set for ANG-NCO Academy

McGHEE- TYS ON ANGB, Tenn. -- This year marks the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Air National Guard NCO Academy at McGhee-Tyson ANGB in Knoxville, Tenn., and the establishment of the ANG NCO Academy Graduates Association. To mark these special events, the ANG NCOAGA will hold its annual meeting, called Seminar 25, where the story began -- in Knoxville.

"It's important for us to remember how and where we started," said Senior Master Sgt. Bill Quinn, the association's national president and a member of the Oregon Air National Guard. "That's why we're 'going home' this July," he said.

Seminar 25 will be held July 18-23 with the Hyatt Regency as the headquarters hotel. "We are expecting a record turnout," Quinn continued.

"especially because a lot of our members haven't been to McGhee-Tyson in quite some time. They probably won't recognize the place," he said, referring to the massive construction program at the ANG Professional Military Education Center.

Special guests for the seminar include Lt. Gen. John Coats, director of the National Guard Bureau; Maj. Gen. Phillip Killey, director of the ANG; Col. (retired) Ed Morrisey, the center's first commander; Chief Master Sgt. Paul Langford, the first NCO academy commandant; Chief Master Sgts. George Vittrum, Gordon Kniskern and Richard Moon, all former commandants; and Chief Master Sgt. Jane Shoney, current commandant of the academy.

Those wishing to attend the seminar should forward a registration form, which is available from any NCOAGA member on your base, and you should contact the Hyatt Regency to make hotel reservations. The toll free number for the Hyatt is 800-223-1234.

Cars on base need registration

The security police flight's pass and registration section is stepping up its effort to register all vehicles owned by KyANG members.

Beginning this UTA, operating hours will be 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. all weekend. Personnel are required to register their vehicles, and more than one vehicle may be registered. You must present a valid driver's license, the vehicle's registration certificate and proof of liability insurance.
DFAS searches locations for new finance centers

American Forces Information Service

Twenty communities across the country continue in the running as sites for Defense Finance and Accounting Service consolidated centers.

The communities were selected by a task force from the accounting activity after more than five months of study. More than 200 proposals were submitted from 112 sites in 33 states. Officials used the 1990 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act to develop criteria used to select the finalists, said organization officials.

Following further discussions and visits to the communities involved, DFAS will recommend a combination of sites that will meet its long-term requirements. In addition, it will look at its existing finance centers for possible closure.

The consolidated centers will mean between 4,000 and 7,000 jobs in the communities selected. According to organization officials, the consolidation will improve the quality of service, increase the volume of work and provide significant savings through the closure of unneeded finance offices. It permits operation from fewer centers with up-to-date standardized equipment.

The sites selected for the new centers, along with recommended closures, was forwarded to the secretary of defense in February as part of DoD's proposed closure and realignment list. The list was then sent to the Base Realignment and Closure Commission. The commission, established by the 1990 act, reviews DoD's list. The final list is sent to Congress by the president for approval later in the year.

Two states, Ohio and Oklahoma, have three cities each under consideration. They are Cleveland, Columbus and Youngstown in Ohio; Lawton, Oklahoma City and Tulsa, Okla.

Indiana and Louisiana have two cities each still in the running. In Indiana, they are Evansville and Indianapolis, while in Louisiana they are New Orleans and Shreveport.

The rest are: Bangor, Maine; Denver; Huntsville, Ala.; Jackson, Miss.; Lubbock, Texas; Macon, Ga.; Pensacola, Fla.; Saginaw, Mich.; San Bernardino, Calif.; and Southbridge, Mass.

NCOA offers resume service

The Noncommissioned Officers Association now offers a free resume-listing service to veterans, family members and Department of Defense civilians seeking employment. The service is called the "People Bank/Resume Registry." Using NCOA's unique "mini resume," a job seeker's qualifications are entered into a computer data base that can be accessed by hundreds of companies across the nation.

Membership in the NCOA is not required, and no rank or grade restrictions apply. For a mini resume, contact your local NCOA service center or write: NCOA, Attn: Veterans Employment Assistance Program, PO Box 33610, San Antonio, TX 78265.

AFAF under way

The 1993 Air Force Assistance Fund is under way. This year's goal is $4.2 million. AFAF raises money for four charitable organizations that benefit active duty, Guard, Reserve and retired Air Force people and their families, including surviving spouses.

The organizations are the Air Force Aid Society; the Air Force Enlisted Men's Widows and Dependents Home Foundation; the Air Force Village Indigent Widows' Fund; and the Gen. and Mrs. Curtis E. Lemay Foundation.

DCS titles change

The Air Force has eliminated the chief of staff designation at all levels except its headquarters, Air Force officials announced. Deputy chiefs of staff became directors Feb. 1, with former directorates now divisions at major commands. The DCS and directorate functions at numbered Air Forces also changed to divisions.

The Cargo Courier
May 15, 1993
VA to study stress disorders in women veterans

By Rudi Williams
American Forces Information Service

A study under way at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Boston will evaluate the effects of post-traumatic stress disorder on women veterans' mental health and physical well-being.

The Women's Health Science Division is the first of its kind in the country, said director Jessica Wolfe. Her division will conduct studies designed to improve the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of the stress disorder in women, as well as training the medical staff. The mental health community in general became seriously interested in post-traumatic stress disorder in women in the past three to five years, she said.

"There's increasing concern within Veterans Affairs and throughout the country about the special needs of women who experienced stress disorders resulting from war zone or sexual abuse experiences," said Wolfe, a psychologist. "For women, rape and other forms of sexual assault can be as traumatic as combat situations for men."

Incidents of post-traumatic stress disorder resulting from sexual harassment and assault have increased dramatically across the country, but especially in military settings, said Wolfe. "It doesn't appear to be limited to women in a war zone. Unfortunately, the stress of everyday life in the military seems to be a cause, too," she noted.

The Persian Gulf war highlighted the increasing role of women in the military, she said. "Before that, most resources were focused only on studying stress-related disorders in servicemen. Even though VA treats hundreds of women veterans, until now, there hasn't been a lot of attention devoted to their special needs," Wolfe asserted.

A 1992 Walter Reed Army Institute of Research study of psychological effects on veterans of the Persian Gulf war showed that 28 percent of the cases of traumatic stress stemmed from exposure to dead bodies. Fifteen percent mentioned Scud missile attacks as a source of fear. Other war-related stresses were frustration and anger at command, exposure to combat, fear of dying or being killed, boring duty, and isolated and dangerous duty.

"We really need to study whether women experience problems different from men's when they're in combat situations," Wolfe emphasized. "We're also studying how military service in general affects women's well-being. Prime consideration will be focused on sexual assault and sexual harassment during wartime and effects on physical health and health complaints resulting from Vietnam and the Persian Gulf wars."

Wolfe said women seem to suffer from stress disorders longer than men. She said part of the study includes people who adjusted well after returning from war zones.

"Only a few people develop post-traumatic stress disorders after a traumatic, stressful situation -- from 2 to 10 percent," Wolfe added. "We're searching for the reason and ways to diagnose and treat these problems."

U.S. government photo by Dave Triska
Capt. Debbie Sites, an instructor flight nurse, and Senior Airman Anthony Cohman, an aeromedical technician, both assigned to Scott AFB in Illinois, render care to an evacuation patient.

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Reaching into its past, the Air Force keeps a legacy by naming the C-17

SCOTT AFB, III. (AMC) -- The Air Force continued a legacy that began in 1945 when it announced the naming of the Air Mobility Command's airlifter of the future, the C-17, as the Globemaster III. The new generation airlifter recently completed two successful long-range flights demonstrating its lift and range capabilities.

The name Globemaster III continues a proud tradition for strategic transport aircraft that began with the Douglas C-74 in 1945. Produced by Douglas Aircraft Company at the end of World War II, the original Globemaster was the largest land-based transport aircraft of the day, and was capable of hauling about 24 tons of cargo.

The second airlifter to carry the name was the C-124 Globemaster II. A modified C-74, this double-deck airlifter combined clamshell doors and a drive-on ramp. First flown in November 1949, the aircraft entered service at the start of the Korean conflict.

In announcing the results of the flight at an Air Force Association symposium Jan. 5 in Orlando, Fla., Gen. Ronald R. Fogleman, commander of AMC, said that "While this flight was not designed to meet the contractual specifications for range and payload, it did clearly demonstrate great capability and should dispel many of the myths about the operational utility of this aircraft."

After taking off from Edwards AFB, Calif., the aircraft landed at Eglin AFB and still had enough fuel -- 21,000 pounds -- to fly another 467 miles. It completed the return leg to Edwards with similar fuel economy. The Air Force plans to buy 120 C-17s.

The first operational unit will be assigned to AMC's Charleston AFB, S.C.

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History of the KyANG

By TSgt. John Martin
Wing Historian

During the May UTA of 1947, 25 P-51 Mustang aircraft arrived at the KyANG from the 368th Fighter Squadron -- making up the nucleus of the Louisville-based Guard unit.

On May 5, 1972, Maj. Gen. Richard Frymire, the state adjutant general, stated his opposition to a proposed change in mission for the KyANG. This change would replace the unit's tactical reconnaissance planes with "close support aircraft." One concern of the proposal was that it would eliminate 27 full-time and 180 part-time positions from the Guard. "No other state has been asked to take a strength loss and I'm not going to consent to it," Frymire bitterly stated to the National Guard Bureau.

Just six days later, by the efforts of Frymire, U.S. Sen. Marlow Cook and U.S. Rep. Ron Mazolli, the KyANG was informed that no jobs would be eliminated and that the unit would retain its reconnaissance mission.

Ever performed "KP" duty? Ever wanted to? Well, that time-honored military function usually reserved for lower-grade airmen, or those whose actions merited such a task, was under an NGB review during May 1972 to conclude if it was as cost efficient as believed. This review was in regard to constant complaints to the bureau about the necessity of performing KP duty.

During the first week of May in 1991, many KyANG personnel observed a "bear" roaming the base and our fair city. That bear was none other than Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, who was honored as the grand marshall of the Derby Festival's Pegasus Parade.

Trivia for April

The connection between the KyANG and the Derby is that, although the KyANG was created in 1946, it was not fully operational until 1947, the year that Jet Pilot won the Kentucky Derby.

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Bosnia: powder keg of historic Balkans
Many issues unchanged since World War I

The following article by Tech Sgt. John Martin, the KFANG’s wing historian, was based on local research and several historical resources.

“THe lamps are going out all over Europe, we shall not see them lit again in our lifetime.” Those prophetic words were spoken by British statesman Sir Edward Grey on the eve of World War I, 79 years ago this summer.

Rarely have any words been so accurately stated to describe future events. Grey’s words were made as a result of the events that occurred on a bright Sunday morning, June 28, 1914. That day, while enjoying a visit to Sarajevo, Archduke Francis Ferdinand and his wife were shot by a Serb, who was attempting to win political freedom for his country. The assassin, Gravillo Princep, would never know that his crime was but a snowball, which brought an avalanche of war and destruction unlike the world had ever seen.

It has been estimated that World War I was seven times more destructive than the 901 previous wars of human history. The events that led to war in the summer of 1914 are similar to what has been occurring recently in that same corner of Eastern Europe, known as Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Balkan Peninsula has been the center of European rivalry for many centuries, intensified by religious and political instability centering on such issues as boundary disputes, religious intolerance (Muslims against Greek Orthodox against Jews against Christians), militaristic claims as well as ancient tribal feuds. Prior to World War I, this small region was under the protectorate (regardless if they wanted it or not) of the dual kingdom of Austria-Hungary, ruled by 84-year-old Franz Josef I. It was his cousin, Francis Ferdinando, who was shot since he represented all that Serbia hated.

War actually began when Austria-Hungary, under the prodding of her more powerful ally Germany, went to war against Serbia as a measure to counteract any move made by Russia, Serbia's main ally. Within two months, all of Europe was embroiled in a devastating war.

Sarajevo, the scene of the assassination, was located in the southern province of Austria-Hungary, now known as Bosnia-Herzegovina. For centuries, this region consisted of numerous minorities: Czechs, Poles, Croats, Jews, Turks, Serbs, Slovaks, Slovenes, Magyars, Gypsies -- all hating one another. Even Austrians and Hungarians were minorities within the assorted Slavic groups. The region was truly a snakepit of intrigue.

The reasons for the unrest in this part of Europe are not difficult to understand. France, Turkey, Great Britain, Russia and Germany all had military interests in the Balkans -- something the Balkan countries, mostly Serbia -- detested. Though Gravillo Princep pulled the trigger, the greater violence was to come in the wake of the assassination. Four years later and millions dead, World War I settled nothing except boundary changes for several countries, followed by depression, another war and the growing force of communism.

However, in 1992, with the collapse of communist-dominated governments in Europe, minorities in the region, mostly Serbs and Croats, still demanded political freedom while fighting has grown intense throughout much of this part of Europe.

Fighting still continues in the Bosnia-Herzegovina region between Serbs and their northern neighbor, Croatia. Seventy-nine years ago this July, the lights went out in Europe. In 1993, the lights are still out. Their chances of being relit still remains to be seen.

Clinton overturns ban on military abortions

American Forces Information Services

President Bill Clinton overturned a ban on prepaid elective abortions for military women overseas Jan. 22, while Defense Secretary Les Aspin is expected to send a memorandum to service secretaries on the subject soon.

Each military department will prepare its own implementing instructions. DoD officials said some women seeking information about abortions have already approached military hospitals -- which cannot perform the procedure until they receive instructions.

The ban went into effect Oct. 1, 1988. A DoD spokesperson said military hospitals overseas performed 12 abortions in the year prior to the ban.

Under the old policy, military women had to pay for the abortions themselves at the standard same-day surgery rate, which today is almost $500.

The abortions were provided as a safety measure for women stationed in countries where medical care would either not be available to noncitizens or not of good quality, said the spokesperson.

Military hospitals have never provided elective abortions as part of the military's health care benefits. Currently, military women living in the United States must use civilian clinics or hospitals for elective abortions. Officials expect that policy to continue.

Military hospitals will perform emergency abortions as part of the medical benefit only to save the mother's life, the DoD official stated.

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